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2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
☎ (070) 3 40 20 40
TX 31651 epo nl
FAX (070) 3 40 30 16

Europäisches
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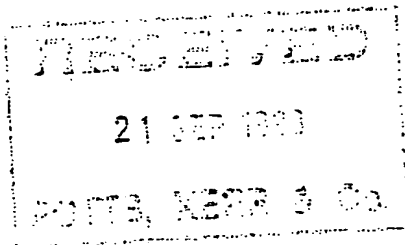
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recherche

□ Gilmour, David Cedric Franklyn
POTTS, KERR & CO.
15 Hamilton Square
- Birkenhead
Merseyside L41 6BR
GRANDE BRETAGNE



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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Hood, Larry, L.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☐ the European search report
- ☐ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☒ ^{SUPPLEMENTARY} the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☐ Abstract ☐ Title ☐ Figure
- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.
- ☐ The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.
- Figure:
- ☒ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



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**SUPPLEMENTARY
PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 94 92 5975
shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent
proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (InCL.6)
X	US 5 217 459 A (KAMERLING) 8 June 1993	1-5,7, 9-12, 14-17	A61B17/36 A61N1/30
Y	* the whole document *	19,20	
Y	US 4 500 832 A (MICKIEWICZ) 19 February 1985 * column 4, line 35 - line 38; figure 2 *	19,20	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A61F A61B A61N
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or some or all of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for the following claims:</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>1-20</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>21-24</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>Article 52 (4) EPC - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery</p>			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 7 September 1998	Examiner Raybould, B
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 94 92 5975

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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07-09-1998

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5217459	A	08-06-1993	NONE	
US 4500832	A	19-02-1985	EP 0118269 A	12-09-1984